

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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NAVY TO RELINQUISH RADAR SITES ON ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE IN ALASKA

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today that the Navy is relinquishing to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife two former radar sites on the Arctic National Wildlife Range in Alaska.

The Arctic Range is managed by Interior's Bureau, which runs the national wildlife refuge system consisting of 328 refuges located in all but four States.

The Arctic Range, located in the northeastern corner of Alaska, is the nation's largest refuge with 8,900,000 acres. It contains scenic, wilderness, wildlife, and ecological values not found elsewhere in the United States.

Commissioner Charles H. Meacham of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said: "The objective of this Range is to preserve an undisturbed portion of Arctic environment large enough to be biologically self-sufficient. We expect it to yield rich returns in the study of biological features in the environment."

Commissioner Meacham termed the agreement with the Navy "an example of the cooperative attitude between the military and civilian agencies of Government in helping to save the nation's wildlife and its habitat."

The sites involved contain several buildings and an air strip. The Navy will continue to use these facilities on an intermittent basis.

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